

















IN THE END,  
I DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING  
BUT WATCH  
WHILE SHE  
GOT HURT.

I  
THOUGHT  
I KNEW  
THAT,  
BUT ...



SHE  
WAS SO  
SMALL.

I  
FORGOT



WOULD HE  
FORGIVE A  
SMALL GIRL  
LIKE THIS?

IF MEI  
RAN AWAY  
FROM HERE,  
WOULD  
YAKUMO-  
SAN...



NOW THAT  
SHE'S PARTED  
WAYS WITH  
HER BROTHER,  
THERE'S NO  
REASON FOR  
ME TO STAY  
HERE.









YOU PUT  
THAT  
CURSE ON  
YOURSELF

UP TO NOW,  
YOU COULD KILL  
PEOPLE WITH  
AN INNOCENT  
SMILE, BECAUSE  
YOU WERE A  
CHILD



BUT...

EVEN IF IT  
WAS JUST  
TO SURVIVE,  
YOU JOINED  
THE MARIA  
AT A VERY  
YOUNG AGE.

I  
SYMPA-  
THIZE  
WITH  
YOU.



THE  
CURSE  
IS GOING  
TO WEAR  
OFF

JUST  
LIKE  
MAGIC  
FADING  
AWAY.



BUT  
FALLING IN  
LOVE MEANS  
YOU'RE NOT  
A CHILD  
ANYMORE.

YOU'RE  
BECOMING  
AN ADULT IN  
BOTH MIND  
AND BODY.



BUT IF I  
RUN AWAY,  
I'LL BE  
KILLED,  
WON'T I?



YOU KNOW  
THAT BETTER  
THAN ANYONE,  
DON'T YOU?

SO IT'S  
DANGEROUS  
TO STAY  
HERE.



BUT  
I'M JUST  
GOING TO  
KEEP DOING  
WHAT I  
WANT  
TO DO.



IT'S  
ALL RIGHT.  
I'LL LIVE  
MY LIFE  
HERE.

YAKUMO-  
SENSEI SAID  
THE SAME  
THING ABOUT  
A CURSE,



I DON'T  
WANT TO  
REGRET  
ANYTHING  
ANYMORE.



GET  
SOME  
SLEEP



I'M  
SICK OF  
SEEING  
PEOPLE  
AROUND  
ME DIE.



I CAN'T  
LET MEI  
DIE IN  
THIS  
TOWN.



I...  
I'M  
HERE  
ABOUT  
MEI.



YES.  
SO...

I HEARD  
THAT  
MEI WAS  
SHOT.



LET MEI  
LEAVE  
THIS  
ORGANI-  
ZATION?



WOULD  
YOU











IF IT'S  
FOR  
MEI,  
I'LL—



BUT...  
IT'S  
OKAY  
NOW,  
RIGHT?  
MEI  
CAN BE  
FREE  
NOW.



SHE  
MAY BE  
STRONG,  
BUT...

SHE'S  
UNBAL-  
ANCED...

...MEI IS  
STILL A  
CHILD







SEEING  
THAT SHE  
GOT HURT,  
I'D SAW  
SHE MUST  
BE AT HER  
LIMIT.



THAT  
CURSE IS  
STARTING  
TO BREAK  
UP NOW.

MEI'S MIND  
AND BODY  
ARE WORKING  
ON BREAKING  
OUT OF THAT  
SHELL.



SHE  
PUT A  
CURSE  
ON HER-  
SELF

WHEN MEI  
DECIDED  
TO LIVE IN  
THIS TOWN  
ON HER  
OWN,



.....



"I WON'T BE  
SCARED OF  
ANYTHING. I  
WON'T CRY."

"I WON'T  
BALK AT  
KILLING  
PEOPLE."





JUST  
LIKE I WAS  
ALWAYS  
PROTECTED  
BY THE  
ADULTS  
AROUND  
ME.



...I'M  
STILL  
SHAK-  
ING...



I THOUGHT  
YAKUMO-  
SAN WAS  
A COLD-  
HEARTED  
MAN.

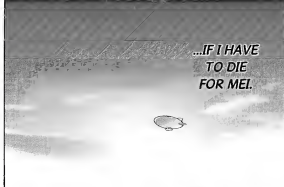
BUT I  
GUESS HE'S  
BEEN  
TRYING TO  
PROTECT  
MEI IN  
HIS OWN  
WAY.



I DON'T  
HAVE TO  
BE AFRAID  
ANYMORE

NOW IT'S  
MY TURN TO  
PROTECT  
MEI

IT'S  
ALRIGHT...









AND  
YOU,  
TOO?

YAKUMO-  
SENSEI  
SAID  
THAT?  
REALLY?



YEAH.

...REALLY  
YOU CAN  
REALLY  
GO WITH  
MR...?



YAKUMO-  
SAN WAS  
WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU.



I'LL  
TAKE YOU  
WITH ME.



HE SAID IF  
YOU NEEDED  
ME, I COULD  
GO WITH  
YOU.







WE  
CAN'T  
TAKE TOO  
MUCH,  
BUT...

OKAY  
LET'S GET  
YOUR STUFF  
PACKED  
TOO



UNTIL  
YOU  
GROW  
UP

AND CAN  
TAKE CARE  
OF YOUR-  
SELF



...  
MAY?

DON'T  
TREAT  
ME LIKE  
A CHILD!!





